



**CSEES**

**The Center for Slavic & East European Studies**

# Contemporary Ukraine



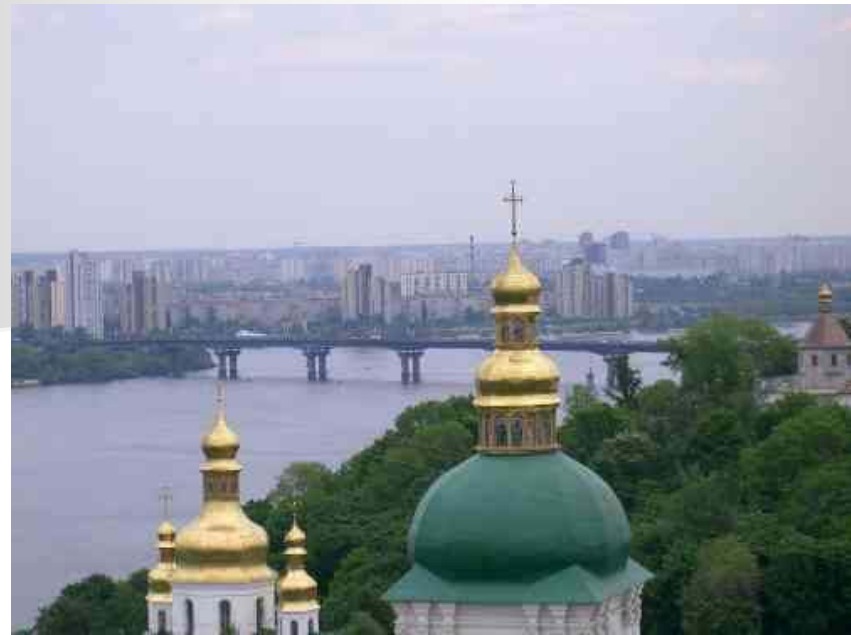


# CSEES

**The Center for Slavic & East European Studies**

## Kyiv- the capital

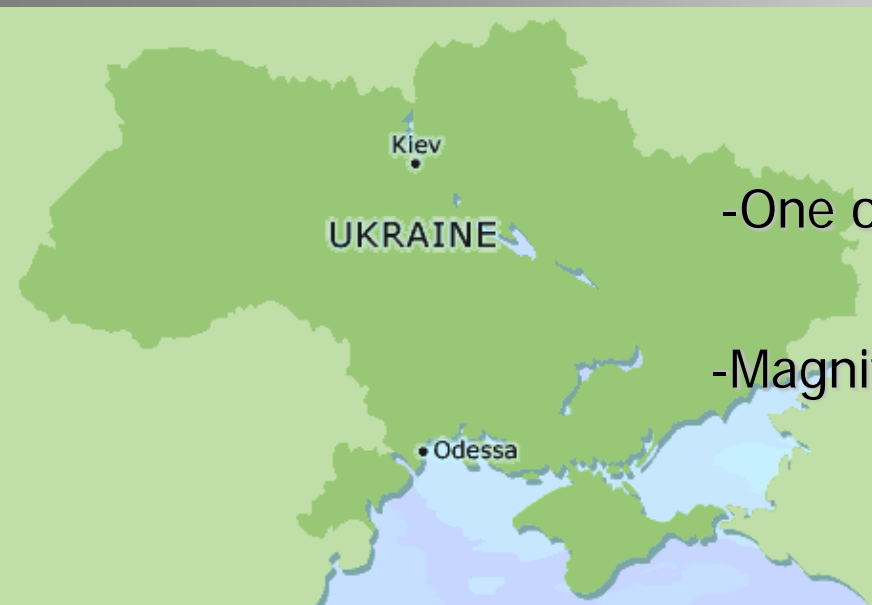
- Today, Kyiv is the cultural, political and social epicenter of Ukraine.
- It's where all the trends start, where the youth are heard and European influence is felt.





# CSEES

**The Center for Slavic & East European Studies**



-Population 2.7 million people

-Dniro River cultural landmark

-One of the oldest cities in Europe (founded in 5<sup>th</sup> century AD)

-Magnificent architecture and art, world treasures:  
St. Sophia Cathedral  
The Pecherska Lavra  
The Golden Gate





# CSEES

The Center for Slavic & East European Studies

## Orange Revolution

- November 2004 protests against the Presidential Election fraud
- Estimated 500,000 participants, lasted 3 months
- Support for Opposition

*Viktor Yushchenko* and *Yulia Tymoshenko* (Opposition) vs *Leonid Kuchma* (President at the time) and *Viktor Yanukovich*

- Yushchenko is the current President  
-poisoned in the process







# CSEES

The Center for Slavic & East European Studies





# CSEES

The Center for Slavic & East European Studies

## Main Holidays

- New Years (December 31-January 1)
- Eastern Orthodox Christmas (January 7)
- Women's Day (March 8)
- Orthodox Easter ("The Christ has Risen" "Indeed Risen")
- Spring and Labor Days (1-2 May)
- Victory Day (May 9)
- Ukrainian Independence (August 24)





# CSEES

The Center for Slavic & East European Studies

## Pop culture

- ***Eurovision*** annual European live song contest where each country gets one entry and one vote. Countries vote for each other.

- 2004 Winner Ruslana (Ukraine), 2005 contest thus held in Kyiv

- 2007 Ukraine 2<sup>nd</sup> place (Serduchka)

- 2008 Ukraine 2<sup>nd</sup> place (Ani Lorak)







# CSEES

The Center for Slavic & East European Studies

## Dynamo (Dinamo) Soccer Ukraine

- **Soccer** is a very popular sport in Ukraine, which unites youth all over the country
- Colors: blue and yellow like the flag (yellow is wheat, blue is the sky, symbolizes horizon)
- Famous players: Andrey Shevchenko (forward) and Alexandr Shovkovsky (goalie) –both with some of the best records in European soccer
- 2006 World Cup: Reached quarter finals by beating Switzerland, lost to the eventual champion, Italy



GETTY IMAGES



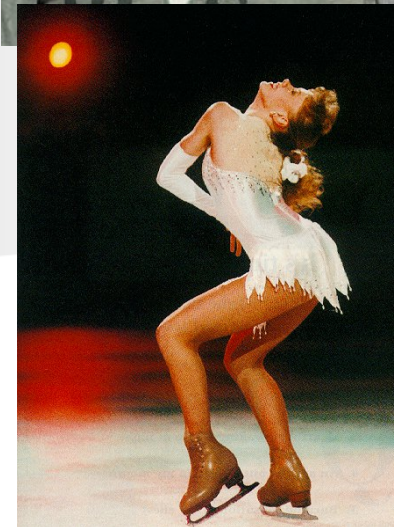


# CSEES

The Center for Slavic & East European Studies

## Other Sports Accomplishments

- **The Klitschko brothers** – famous Ukrainian heavyweight boxers
- ***Vitali Klitschko***: WBC heavyweight champion (2008-present)
- ***Wladimir Klitschko***: IBF, WBO and IBO Heavyweight World Champion
- ***Oksana Baiul***: Ukrainian professional figure skater, Olympic Champion 1994



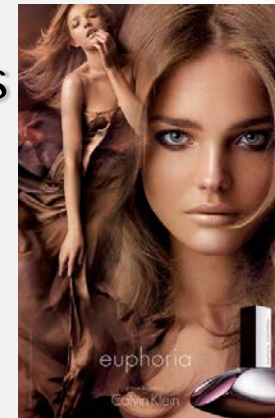


# CSEES

The Center for Slavic & East European Studies

## Ukraine Fashion

- Devushka Street fashion: high heels, tall boots, long hair and always look your best
- Slavic Fashion models, most popular, well-paid models in the industry. "Deep-set eyes, sculptured cheekbones and fierce determination".  
**Olga Kurylenko, Natalia Vodianova, Eugenia Volodina, Natasha Poly, Valentina Zelyaeva**
- **Ukrainian Fashion Week** "Following the best world standards, Ukrainian Fashion Week is a guarantee of stable social attention towards Ukrainian fashion, increase of trust of Ukrainians towards the label "made in Ukraine".





# CSEES

The Center for Slavic & East European Studies

## Come to Ukraine!

- Food is healthy
- People are famous for their hospitality
- Lots of walking, exercise
- Beautiful nature and architecture
- Visit Black Sea in Crimea
- Lots of FUN!

